

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A coupling apparatus, comprising:
a first coupling element having a first end and a second end, including:
 - (i) a mating surface positioned between the first coupling element first end and the first coupling element second end;
 - (ii) a wedging surface positioned on the first end of the first coupling element
 - (iii) an engagement surface positioned on the second end of the first coupling element; and
 - (iv) at least one alignment orifice; anda second coupling element having a first end and a second end adapted to releasably attach to the first coupling element, including:
 - (i) a mating surface configured to abut the mating surface of the first coupling element;
 - (ii) at least one wedge member positioned on the first end of the second coupling element and having a wedge member surface extending from the second coupling element mating surface configured to engage the wedging surface of the first coupling element, the wedge member having a distal end positioned lower than a wedge member proximal end;
 - (iii) at least one alignment member extending from the second coupling element mating surface and configured to extend at least partially through the at least one alignment orifice; and
 - (iv) a locking tab extending from the mating surface and configured to abut the engagement surface at the second end of the first coupling element.
2. (Original) The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of the wedging surface of the first coupling element and the wedge member surface of the second coupling element is formed as one of a substantially curved and a beveled shape.

3. (Original) The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wedging surface of the first coupling element is configured to abut and mate with the wedge member surface of the second coupling element.

4. (Original) The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of the wedging surface of the first coupling element and the wedge member surface of the second coupling element include a substantially planar segment.

5. (Original) The coupling apparatus of claim 4, wherein the planar segment extends at an angle with respect to one of the mating surface of the first coupling element and the mating surface of the second coupling element.

6. (Original) The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of the second end of the first coupling element and the second end of the second coupling element extends at an angle with respect to the respective one of the mating surface of the first coupling element and the mating surface of the second coupling element.

7. (Currently Amended) The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one alignment member extends at an angle with respect to the mating surface of the second ~~first~~ coupling element.

8. (Original) The coupling apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of alignment members located in a spaced apart position and extending from the mating surface of the second coupling element.

9. (Original) The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one alignment member includes at least one locking orifice.

10. (Original) The coupling apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a locking pin configured to engage the locking orifice of the at least one alignment member.

11. (Original) The coupling apparatus of claim 10, wherein the locking pin is a wedge member with at least one beveled surface and configured to be inserted at least partially through and frictionally engage the locking orifice.

12. (Original) The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the locking tab is a substantially square-shaped bar member attached on the second coupling element second end.

13. (Original) The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the engagement surface of the first coupling element is positioned at a bottom portion of a plate member forming the mating surface of the first coupling element.

14. (Original) The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the alignment orifice is in a substantially square-shaped form.

15. (Original) The coupling apparatus of claim 14, wherein at least one of a top alignment orifice surface and a bottom alignment orifice surface is beveled.

16. (Original) The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the alignment member has a substantially curved distal end.

17. (Original) The coupling apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an attachment mechanism attached to a portion of at least one of the first coupling element and the second coupling element and configured to allow attachment of an object to the at least one of the first coupling element and the second coupling element.

18. (Original) The coupling apparatus of claim 17, wherein the object is one of a locomotive mechanism, a bulldozer, a forklift, a backhoe, an earthmover, a truck, a machine, a tool, an implement and a device.

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19. (Currently Amended) The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first coupling element is a box-shaped ~~bex~~-like structure formed from a plurality of plate elements.

20. (Currently Amended) The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second coupling element is a box-shaped ~~bex~~-like structure formed from a plurality of plate elements.